

Wednesday, August 18, 2010

## Status Report

491 personnel are actively engaged in the response, working to protect wildlife and their habitats, including 36 national wildlife refuges. They are also assessing the damage from the oil spill in preparation for the work that will be needed to restore the Gulf of Mexico.

State and federal wildlife teams have captured alive 1,933 visibly oiled birds. Of those, 846 have been rehabilitated and released. In addition, 4,373 visibly oiled have been collected dead.

533 loggerhead sea turtle hatchlings were released on Florida's East Coast Tuesday from nests that had been relocated from the northern Gulf of Mexico. In Alabama, sea turtle hatchlings from two nests located on the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge were transported to Florida, away from the oil.

In Louisiana, aerial operations and field crews are supporting operations to replace and reposition displaced and oiled booms in numerous locations. Work on the Delta and Breton national wildlife refuges was canceled Tuesday due to the weather. An apparent ruptured gas line was bubbling and light sheen was recorded on the north-central portion of Delta.

Also in Louisiana, the Biodiversity Research Institute is capturing brown pelicans to assess the degree of oiling using black light methodology. The institute is also working with the Service to monitor bird movement and survival within Barataria Bay, Grand Isle, the Venice and Empire areas and the Pascagoula River basin as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program.

Real-time bird data is being collected across the Gulf region with new GPS units.